

# Humility and Pride

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*What does Pacific Island/Oceanic wisdom mean to you?*

During my childhood on Saipan and Majuro, I had my first lessons on humility and pride. The state of harmony and consensus, and a certain level of wisdom, cannot be reached with pride. Humility is necessary if you want to listen to differing perspectives and work toward common ground, creating harmony with others. Pride closes your heart and mind to what others can teach you. Only through humility will you be aware of your own failings, allowing you to move closer to learning from others what you do not know or cannot do for yourself and your community.

*How/why do you bring island wisdom into your scholarship?*

My acceptance of the value and enduring strength of humility has shaped how I approach my students and research. On the first day of every semester, I am the most anxious one in the class. I am confident as an educator, but at the forefront of my mind are several questions, "What agreed-upon lessons can we teach each other? Will our collective sociological imagination grow exponentially? What are their weaknesses, and can I help? Can they help me with mine?" With participants and colleagues in my research, the approach is the same: We can learn from each other.